SPRING 1974

SPECIAL ISSUE:
YEAR IN REVIEW 1973

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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An individual becomes a Life Member of The Nature Conservancy upon contribution of $300 for membership dues. Patrons contributing $1,000 and Sponsors contributing $500 are also granted Life Membership as special distinction among Annual Members. The contribution is added to the Guarantee and Income Fund for the Conservancy's endowment.

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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LAND CONSERVATION THROUGH PRIVATE ACTION

The Nature Conservancy is the only national conservation organization, receiving its support from the public, whose resources are devoted to the preservation of ecologically and environmentally significant land.

Some 664,373 acres of forests, swamps, marshes, prairies, mountains, beaches, and islands in 1,151 projects throughout the United States, have been saved from destruction by the Conservancy since the acquisition of its first preserve in 1954.

The Nature Conservancy works in three ways to protect threatened natural areas: by purchase of land with funds raised through public subscription, by acceptance of donations of land, and by advance acquisition of land for local, state, and federal governments.

A member-governed non-profit organization, The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1951 in the District of Columbia for scientific and educational purposes.

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Connecticut

DUCK POND HILL—Addition—(Fairfield County). Two wooded acres overlook a waterfowl refuge on Duck Pond. The tract, a gift of Mrs. Audrey S. Hess, enlarges the preserve to 12 acres.

LORD'S COVE—Ferry Property—(New London County). Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain Ferry donated to the Conservancy 21 acres of tidal marsh at the lower reaches of the Connecticut River. The tract, which connects two parcels of land donated to the Conservancy by Mr. Richard Cooper, is part of the finest tidal river marsh complex remaining in the state. Management of the preserve will be handled by the Connecticut Chapter with the donors' assistance.

Kentucky

MURPHEY'S POND—Bagsby Addition—(Hickman County). 2 acres provide access to Murphey's Pond, a 237-acre Conservancy-owned preserve. The entire preserve will be transferred to Murray State University for management as a study area and wildlife refuge.

Michigan

HOLLOWAY RESERVOIR—Additions—(Genesee and Lapeer Counties). Three tracts totaling 147 acres contain a blend of northern and southern tree species as well as a variety of herbaceous plants and shrubs. A number of soil types account for the area's exceptional botanic diversity.

New Mexico

SEVILLETA PRESERVE (Socorro County). A 220,000-acre tract in central New Mexico was purchased by the Conservancy from the Campbell Family Foundation for a fraction of its value. The semi-arid land has been transferred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for use as a wildlife refuge and research area. See story beginning on page 22.

North Carolina

ENO RIVER—Fowler Property—(Orange County). 102 acres consist of open fields sloping down to the river and several scattered stands of trees. The tract, located directly across the Eno from another Conservancy-owned parcel, is scheduled for transfer to the State of North Carolina for inclusion in the proposed Eno River State Park.

Ohio

IRWIN PRAIRIE—Marleau Addition—(Lucas County). In cooperation with the State of Ohio, the Ohio Chapter purchased a 40-acre tract contiguous to Irwin Prairie. The tract's northern half

contains mature swamp forest of swamp white and pin oak, and the southern portion is a continuation of the wet prairie found on the original Irwin Prairie tract. The area is to be transferred to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for management.

MENTOR MARSH—Addition—(Lake County). A 28-acre addition expands the Mentor Marsh preserve, a Natural History Landmark, to 273 acres. The area consists of swamp forest and marsh with sand dune vegetation on the eastern [illegible]. At least 115 bird species have been sighted on the preserve, and the area is a principle feeding area for migrating birds. The addition, a gift of Morton-Norwich Products, Inc., of Cleveland, has been transferred to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for management, as was the original preserve.

STAGES POND (Pickaway County). 123 acres contain a large glacial kettle pond surrounded by marshy areas, thickets, and reverting farmland. Herons, ducks, quail, pheasant, fox, rabbits, raccoons, and other wildlife find refuge in the area. Purchased on behalf of the state, the tract will be transferred to and managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Virginia

CEDAR ISLAND, Virginia Coast Reserve—Peterson Tract—(Accomack County). A 5-acre parcel on the narrow southern end of Cedar Island was purchased with funds provided by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. The property consists of spartina salt marsh and dunes and fronts both the Atlantic Ocean and Burton's Bay. Cedar Island lies just north of the Conservancy's Parramore Island.

CROOKED CREEK FISHING AREA (Carroll County). On behalf of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Conservancy purchased 55 wooded acres containing a portion of Crooked Creek, a scenic mountain trout stream. The tract will be added to the Commission's existing 954-acre preserve and will be managed as a fishing area and wildlife refuge.

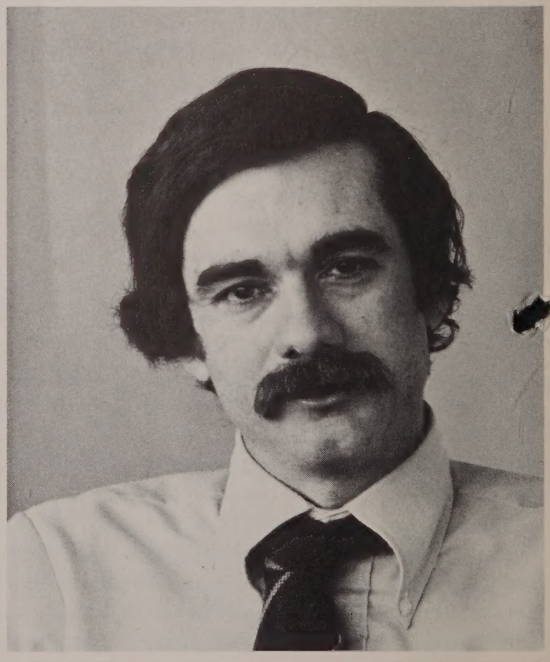
A Look at the Conservancy's Future

At its December meeting, the Board of Governors approved a report of its Long Range Planning Committee proposing a new statement of the Conservancy's objectives as an amendment to Article II of the Bylaws. By the time you receive this issue of the News, *the amendment will have been voted upon at the Annual Meeting.*

Concurrent with the work of the Board of Governors' Long Range Planning Committee, the staff developed a long range operating plan for the Conservancy, setting forth as specifically as possible operating goals to be achieved between 1974 and 1980.

In the following interview, the Conservancy's Executive Vice President, Dr. G. Jon Roush, explains the operating goals that will shape the Conservancy's future.

G. Jon Roush



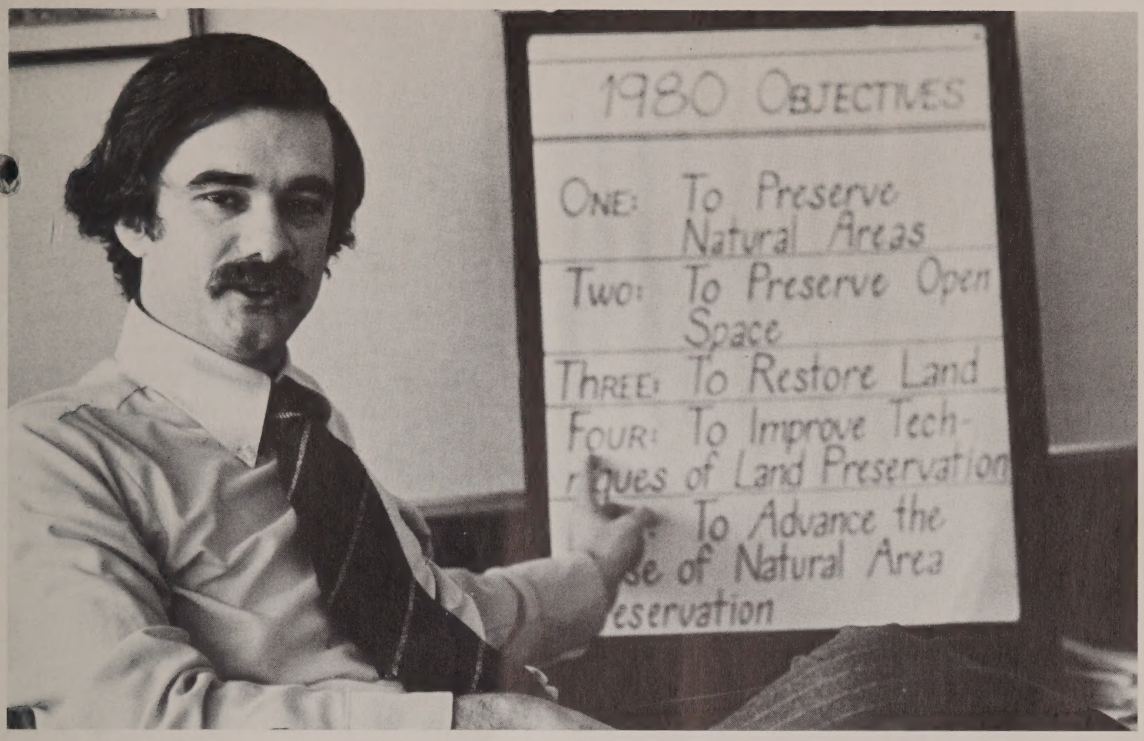
TNC News: Will the long range plan change the Conservancy's direction?

Roush: No. Natural area preservation will continue to be the Conservancy's main task. Between now and 1980 we simply need to strengthen and improve our present programs in land acquisition and preservation. Specifically, we have set two new program goals: an effective nationwide acquisition program and a first-class, operating preserve management program.

TNC News: Certainly those are objectives the Conservancy should work for, but to reach them, much will need to be done. What are the aims?

Roush: By 1980 the Conservancy hopes to have a strong acquisition program in every state. To do this will mean that the Conservancy's membership, staff, and financial resources must be developed in each state.

We are going to accomplish this program in part through decentralization; that is, by 1976 the Conservancy's four regional offices will have the ability to provide most of the basic services that the Na-



"As the demand for land preservation increases . . . the Conservancy should assume leadership in research and development for land preservation techniques."

tional Office now provides. Each regional office will have its own scientific, legal, and land acquisition staff. By 1980 these regional offices will supervise the activities of 40 state and field offices, each with a professional staff.

TNC News: As you mentioned, Conservancy membership will need to grow. What are the plans?

Roush: By 1980 we will have a membership unit—chapter, project committee or affiliate—in each major metropolitan area in the United States. We want to increase membership by 20% per year to achieve a goal of 80,000 members by 1980.

TNC News: What about the preserve management program you mentioned?

Roush: By 1980 the Conservancy's staff and preserve management committees will develop and maintain a working management plan for every existing preserve, including an inventory of key natural resources on each preserve and a working master plan for each area. A monitoring system for areas which have been "transferred out" will also be developed. Concurrently we will expand the program of cooperation with educational institutions and will expand our own educational and research programs.

TNC News: The Conservancy's activities are scheduled to increase, and membership is planned to grow. But part of the equation is still missing—what are the financial goals?

Roush: Well, the specific financial goals are complex, but there is one overriding objective. We hope that by 1980 we can build the endowment—the Guarantee and Income Fund—to the point where its income will support at least half of the Conservancy's annual operating costs. To do so by 1980 will require an endowment of $20 million (in 1973 dollars). The Board has authorized a campaign to work toward the 1980 goal, with the 1974 objective of a $1 million increase to the fund.

TNC News: So far most of the things we have been discussing are plans to do better what the Conservancy has done in the past. Does the operating plan call for any new programs?

Roush: Yes. One new objective concerns the restoration of land. Over the years we have engaged in a number of land restoration projects, the most notable perhaps being the CARES program on the Chesapeake Bay which is now operating independently. But we have never had a permanent restoration program as an integral part of the Conservancy operation. By 1976, we hope to have in operation an experimental program of land restoration techniques on Conservancy preserves. The program will be designed to encourage dissemination of research findings.

Another new objective is the development and improvement of new land preservation techniques. As the demand for land preservation increases and

more organizations and agencies become involved, the Conservancy should assume leadership in research and development for land preservation techniques. We will free our most experienced staff for specific assignments. Periodic seminars for staff and members will be held outlining new preservation techniques. And we will continue our recently begun practice of sponsoring regional conferences for public officials in the field of land preservation.

TNC News: How will the Conservancy go about developing new techniques for land conservation?

Roush: The first step must be the development of techniques for identifying those areas that deserve to be protected. We must develop a uniform inventory of critical natural areas in the U.S. Furthermore, we must develop a system for maintaining the inventory and keeping the data current. Large-scale strategies for protecting the areas that are identified are also needed. The strategies will require cooperation between governmental bodies and private groups like the Conservancy, and will vary from direct private acquisition to regulation and legislation, depending on the needs of the land. We hope to accomplish all these things by 1980.

Another step in developing new land conservation techniques is a research and development program. By 1980 the Conservancy will have a program integrating legal, scientific, and business research in new techniques in such areas as the transfer and sale of development rights, the reclamation of manipulated areas, and research in new land use controls and regulations.

TNC News: During the last two decades the Conservancy has become adept in the field of land conservation. Will the Conservancy be "exporting" that knowledge during the coming years?

Roush: Yes. First of all, we are currently devising programs that will increase TNC's effectiveness by letting its influence be felt more strongly in schools, in private enterprise, in government and abroad.

Secondly, the Conservancy will continue to use its land acquisition skills and its financial credit to help local, state and federal governmental agencies to acquire natural areas, especially where we see the possibility of encouraging the development of good natural area preservation programs. Because we have done this in the past, we have been called upon frequently to advise governmental agencies and legislatures in the development of sound policies and legislation affecting the protection of natural areas. We will be doing more of this kind of analysis in the future. By 1975 we will have completed a study of state natural area legislation, evaluating existing legislation and recommending further legislation. By 1976 we will have published a model program for the establishment of state natural areas systems, and will have established an ongoing program of legislative analysis.

Thirdly, the Conservancy has begun to act as a clearing house for preservation techniques and legislation for the use of private and government groups. This activity will be stepped up, and by 1976 we will have a publications program for the dissemination of new ideas in land conservation.

Also, we plan to establish in 1975 an education task force including Conservancy members and representatives of educational organizations to recommend policies for advancing the cause of land conservation in elementary and secondary schools.

Finally, we believe that the Conservancy's experience in putting real estate, legal, and business skills at the service of ecological objectives may be useful to private organizations abroad with similar objectives. We intend to find a means for communicating the techniques and experience that we have developed, although we do not intend actually to engage in the work of land conservation overseas. By mid-1975 we hope to complete a study of international possibilities for ecosystem and habitat preservation, identifying a country to be selected for a pilot project in cooperation with a local organization.

TNC News: Given the scope of the Conservancy's plans, what will keep the organization from becoming a bureaucracy?

Roush: First and foremost, we hope that the kind of relationship to be developed between staff, members and the Board will preclude the growth of bureaucracy. We think getting the programs closer to the land will help, too. Further, to avoid bureaucratic strangulation, we expect to develop semi-autonomous units concerned with areas of special interest such as natural area inventories, ecological research, land use consulting, preserve management, legislative analysis, international ecosystem preservation, conservation land development, and additional publications.

TNC News: Thank you, Jon, for outlining the long range goals. Do you have any final thoughts before we end the interview?

Roush: All of the goals for the programs, for organization, and for financial resources, are ambitious. However, given this nation's need for natural area protection, nothing less will do. The staff has drawn a detailed plan for achieving each of the goals, and in many ways, the Board of Governors, staff, and members have already begun working directly on many of the immediate objectives and toward the end-of-the-decade goals. Each goal represents an exciting challenge for the Conservancy and a step toward more effective land conservation for the earth.

Each spring, a review of the projects of the past year is published in order to inform members and friends of the Conservancy's accomplishments and to seek support for the General Fund.

During 1973 The Nature Conservancy completed 210 projects comprising 115,501 acres of land. This accomplishment represents the conviction and dedication of many individuals—the generous and foresighted persons who donated land, those who so willingly gave funds to make purchases of land possible, and those who volunteered their time and energies to make the Conservancy's programs work.

The next few pages contain a portfolio of the Conservancy's achievements for one year. Each project is a success for the Conservancy; yet there is still a monumental task to be done.

It takes money to save a bog, a forest, a prairie, or an island. To do the job, the Conservancy needs your support. Your generous gift to the General Fund may mean life for an endangered species or shelter for threatened wildlife. It will surely mean that you have helped preserve our nation's imperiled natural heritage.

1973: Year in Review

California

BISHOP PINE PRESERVE, Addition, Marin Co. (Gift of Gordon and Jacqueline Onslow-Ford) 1-acre addition to preserve within limited range of rare Bishop pine. For transfer to California Department of Parks and Recreation.

BUENA VISTA LAGOON, San Diego Co. Series of freshwater lagoons providing winter refuge for migrating shorebirds. Conservancy assisted the State in purchasing the 56-acre tract.

IDYLLWILD-CUBARKEN, Riverside Co. 135 acres of high desert woodland adjacent to Idyllwild Park. Acquired through a land exchange agreement, the tract has been transferred to the county for addition to Idyllwild Park.

LAS CRUCES EASEMENT, Santa Barbara Co. (Gift of Jonathan and Nancy Kittle) Conservation easement on 400 acres adjacent to Gaviota State Park. Includes headwaters and watershed of Las Cruces Creek, coastal grasslands, and steep slopes covered with chaparral-oak woodland.

McCLOUD RIVER PRESERVE, Shasta Co. 2,330 acres. See page 20.

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST, Hatfield Tract, Sierra Co. Assist to U.S. Forest Service in acquiring 19-acre addition to Plumas National Forest.

POULSEN PRESERVE, Placer Co. (Gift of Wayne E. and Gladys K. Poulsen) Rugged 7,600-foot peaks of glaciated granite substrate support Sierra mixed conifer forest. 106 acres.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY PROJECT, Addition, San Francisco Co. (Gift of James and Evelyn Kazan) One acre located on Candlestick Point.

Connecticut

BANTAM RIVER, Litchfield Co. Two conservation easements donated by Mr. Harold A. Schwartz and Nan F. Heminway on .7 and .5 acres, respectively, along Bantam River. Part of easement program along the Bantam.

BUTTERWORTH PROPERTY, New Haven Co. (Gift of Frank S. Butterworth) 82 acres of mixed hardwoods with some swampy areas. To be transferred to the State for addition to Sleeping Giant State Park.

BYRAM RIVER GORGE, Addition, Fairfield Co. (Gift of Mr. Calvin Duke) 4-acre northern hardwood swamp at entrance to Wooley Pond.

DENNIS FARM PRESERVE, Windham Co. (Gift of Col. Edward B. Dennis) 381 heavily wooded acres with several swamps and active beaver ponds.

FLORIDA REFUGE, HAYES PROPERTY, Fairfield Co. 26-acre oak-beech-maple woodland with pond, rock outcroppings, several small swamps. To be conveyed to Town of Ridgefield for management by Ridgefield Conservation Commission.

HARRY C. BARNES MEMORIAL NATURE CENTER, Addition, Hartford Co. 28-acre purchase consists of inland wetland bounded by esker. Expands preserve to 68 acres.

KENT FALLS BROOK, Litchfield Co. Conservation easement donated by Mr. and Mrs. Newell Rogers. 12-acre tract surrounds scenic Kent Falls Brook and includes rock ledges, small bog.

LEVONIUS EASEMENT, Windham Co. Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Levonius donated a conservation easement on 2.5 acres bordering the Quinebaug River. Tract's woodlands and fields shelter deer, small mammals, numerous birds.

POND MOUNTAIN NATURAL AREA, Addition, Litchfield Co. 25 acres of woodland, open fields and wetland adjacent to Macedonia Brook State Park. Purchased by Connecticut Chapter for transfer to Pond Mountain Trust, Inc.

LORD'S COVE, Richard Cooper Marsh, New London Co. (Gift of Mr. Richard Cooper) 56 acres of Connecticut River floodplain and tidal marsh. Part of the state's finest tidal river marsh complex.

SUNNY VALLEY FARM, Litchfield Co. (Gift of Mr. George D. Pratt, Jr.) Seven tracts totaling 981 acres contain reverting pasture, second-growth woodland. Borders Housatonic River.

WILLIAM J. KULZE PRESERVE, Fairfield Co. (Gift of Mr. William J. Kulze) 4-acre tidal marsh; supports large populations of shell and fin fish.

Big Spring Desert Pupfish Sanctuary

Desert pupfish, descendants of ancient killifish, are creatures of remarkable beauty and vitality. The survival secrets locked in the bodies and behavior of these tiny fish are matters of great curiosity to scientists; as examples of divergent evolution, pupfish rank with the finches and tortoises of the Galapagos Islands. There are four distinct species and several subspecies of desert pupfish, six of which are now threatened by extinction. To help insure protection for one population of pupfish, the Conservancy purchased 80 acres in southern Nevada, just east of Death Valley Monument, for creation of Big Spring Desert Pupfish Sanctuary. Big Spring, a natural thermal freshwater spring, is home of one of just ten remaining populations of Nevada pupfish, *Cyprinodon nevadensis mionectes*. The Conservancy's Western Regional Office is seeking funds to pay for the tract.

Rachel Carson Maine Seacoast

In 1963 the Conservancy's Maine Chapter became involved in the preservation and protection of rocky, spruce-covered islands along the state's Atlantic coast. Since then, nearly 30 islands or pieces of islands have been set aside as valuable rookeries for sea birds and as places of unspoiled beauty and solitude. In tribute to the far-seeing scientist who helped establish the Chapter in 1956 and served as its first honorary chairman, the islands have been dedicated as the Rachel Carson Maine Seacoast of The Nature Conservancy. During the past year the following Maine islands became part of this coastal preserve:

Big Coombs Island
Bradbury Island
Doughty's Island
Heron Islands (3 islands)

See individual descriptions under Maine listing.

Florida

BIG CYPRESS SWAMP, Addition, Monroe Co. Eighth in a series of advance acquisitions for the Department of Interior. The Swamp is an important freshwater supply to Everglades National Park. First 8 purchases total 67½ acres.

MANATEE SPRINGS STATE PARK, Addition, Levy Co. 276-acre inholding acquired by the State of Florida through an option secured by the Conservancy. Includes frontage on Suwannee River.

SANIBEL ISLAND, Additions, Lee Co. Two tracts totalling 43 acres purchased in cooperation with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Georgia

GEORGIA HERITAGE TRUST. In 1972 the State of Georgia embarked on a program to set aside lands of historical and/or ecological importance. During the past year the Conservancy assisted the State in acquiring the following areas:
—FORT MORRIS, Liberty Co. A revolutionary period earthwork fortification along the Medway River. 2.5 acres acquired within this important historical site.
—ISLAND FORD STATE PARK, Woodall Tract, Fulton Co. 142-acre climax hardwood forest fronting the Chattahoochee River.
—LEWIS ISLAND, McIntosh Co. 6,090-acre unspoiled river swamp contains largest stand of virgin cypress known to exist in Georgia.
—PHILLIPS TRACT, Tattnall Co. 750 acre preserve features evergreen broadleaf forest known as "Big Hammock", the largest known population of myrtle oak in the state, and the largest known breeding population of the Georgia plume.
—PICKETT'S MILL BUTTERFIELD PARK, Paulding Co. Heavily wooded hills and ravines were the site of the Civil War Pickett's Mill Battle. 468 acres.
—WATSON'S MILL POND STATE RESOURCE AREA, Emanuel Co. Rolling hills, low hardwood swamp, mill pond with cypress stands. 1,432 acres.

Idaho

CEDAR CREEK RANCH, Lemhi Co. 134-acre creek bottoms, meadows, forested hillsides. To be transferred to U.S. Forest Service.

Illinois

CEDAR GLEN EAGLE ROOST, Additions, Hancock Co. Two tracts totaling 183 acres provide shelter for wintering bald eagles. To be transferred or leased to Western Illinois University for management as a research area and bald eagle habitat.

GENSBURG-MARKHAM PRAIRIE, Cook Co. Purchase of 26 small tracts enlarges preserve to 90 acres. The once subdivided area, located just south of Chicago, supports a wide range of prairie flora and fauna.

LAKE FOREST PRESERVE, Addition, Lake Co. Lake Forest Open Lands Association, in cooperation with the Illinois Chapter, purchased 5.5 acres providing buffer and access to preserve of mixed forest and prairie. Second acquisition for a proposed 100-acre preserve.*

PRAIRIE GROUSE PRESERVE, Addition, Jasper Co. 40 additional acres set aside for the threatened prairie grouse by the Prairie Grouse Committee of the Illinois Chapter.*

ROCKY BRANCH PRESERVE, Addition, Clark Co. 9 acres, located at the junction of Rocky Branch and Big Creek, contain wooded sandstone promontories and prairie openings.

Indiana

ALBERT D. RODENBECK RESERVE, Allen Co. 49 acres of typical floodplain woodland donated by estate of Albert Rodenbeck to the Fort Wayne Chapter, Izaak Walton League, with a reverter to the Conservancy.

FALLS CREEK GORGE, Warren Co. Indiana Chapter purchased 43 acres witth steep gorge and superb oak-history forest.*

SHRADER-WEAVER NATURE PRESERVE, Fayette Co. (Gift of Mr. Laz and Miss Edith Weaver) 108 acres with superb old-growth beech-maple forest. Conveyed to Indiana Department of Natural Resources for use as a state nature preserve.

Iowa

WILLIAMS PRAIRIE, Johnson Co. 2-acre prairie supports short-billed marsh wren and bobolink,

both declining in Iowa due to loss of moist prairie habitat. Purchased and managed by Iowa Chapter.*

Kansas

DINGUS NATURAL AREA, Linn Co. (Gift of Wilson J. and Eunice B. Dingus) 160 acres of rolling woodland fronting Littte Sugar Creek.

FLINT HILLS TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, Butler and Greenwood Cos. 2,188 acres. See page 14.

Maine

BIG COOMBS ISLAND, Hancock Co. 20-acre spruce-covered island along Maine Coast. Conservation easement donated by Mrs. Emily Muir.

BRADBURY ISLAND, Hancock Co. (Gift of Mr. David Becker) Portion of a wooded island with granite-ledged shores located in East Penobscot Bay. 50 acres.

BUTLER PRESERVE, York Co. (Gift of Miss Dorothy J. and Mrs. G. Robert Butler) 6 wooded acres fronting Kennebunk River. Directly across river from Lewis K. Marshall Memorial Forest, a Conservancy preserve.

CROCKETT COVE WOODS, Addition, Hancock Co. (Gift of Mrs. Emily Muir) 51 acres featuring high granite ledges forested with spruce and fir.

DOUGHTY'S ISLAND, Cumberland Co. (Gift of Robert A. and Jeanne Zottoli) 1.5 acre coastal island in inland section of Casco Bay. Nesting site for osprey.

HERON ISLANDS, Sagadahoc Co. (Gift of Mrs. Frances Fickett) Three rocky islands near Small Point Beach used as nesting areas by herons and sea birds. 20 acres.

SABRA'S CREEPER HILL PRESERVE, Oxford Co. (Gift of Mr. Richard Krock) 10% undivided interest in 65 acres of woodland and marsh on northwest cove of Kezar Lake. Habitat for moose, geese, waterfowl.

STEWART'S EASEMENT—MINK ISLAND, Washington Co. Conservation easement donated by Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Stewart. ¼-acre island with conifer forest, rocky beach.

Maryland

BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Addition, Dorchester Co. 176-acre tract on eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. Provides habitat for bald eagles, the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, waterfowl and deer. To be transferred to U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

PATAPSCO STATE PARK, Addition, Howard Co. 59 acres adjacent to Patapsco State Park acquired by State of Maryland through an option secured by the Conservancy.

Michigan

DUCK LAKE, Muskegon Co. 585 heavily wooded acres with extensive frontage on both Duck Lake and Lake Michigan. Transferred to State of Michigan.

GRAYLING WILDERNESS PRESERVE, Crawford Co. 394 wooded acres crossed by the AuSable River, one of the finest trout streams east of the Rockies. Donated to Trout Unlimited by Messrs. Duane Jr., George and Steven Stanahan, with reverter to the Conservancy.

HOLLOWAY RESERVOIR, Additions, Genesee and Lapeer Cos. 10 tracts totaling 542 acres. Forested area has remarkable biotic diversity due to varied soil types.

WEST WEQUETONSING NATURE PRESERVE, Emmet Co. (Gift of Mr. Jean I. Everest) 15-acre forest of hemlock, yellow birch, aspen, Canadian yew, white cedar. Significant geological history.

Minnesota

BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA—VERN LAKE TIMBER RIGHTS, Cook Co. Timber rights purchased on 196 acres owned by U.S. Forest Service. Rights on the virgin black spruce woodland had been owned by a timber company which planned to cut the area.

CHIPPEWA PRAIRIE, Addition, Chippewa Co. 40-acre mid-grass prairie on rocky plateau bordering Lac Qui Parle Lake. Preserve now totals 654 acres. Unit in Ordway Prairie System.*

Joyce Estate

Through the joint action of the Conservancy, Northwestern National Life Insurance Company of Minneapolis, and the U.S. Forest Service, a 4,503-acre tract of lakes and forest in Itasca County, Minnesota, was saved from commercial development. The area contains over 25 miles of sandy lake shore on Spider, Trout, Johnson, and Wabana Lakes. In addition, the mixed woodland, consisting of pine, northern hardwoods, white birch, and aspen, is interspersed with six wilderness lakes ranging from 20 to 120 acres in size. The exceptionally clear lake waters are ideally suited for swimming, fishing, and other water sports. When federal funds become available in late 1974, the U.S. Forest Service will purchase the area for inclusion in Chippewa National Forest. A large portion of the purchase price of the tract was loaned to the Conservancy by Northwestern National Life.

Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie

As part of its efforts to preserve as much as possible of the vanishing American grasslands, the Conservancy purchased an outstanding 2,188 acre tract of native tallgrass prairie. Situated on low rolling hills approximately fifty miles northeast of Wichita, Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie supports excellent populations of big and little bluestem, Indian and switch grass and forbs and legumes typical of the tallgrass biome. A wooded bottomland is habitat for deer, coyote, and a variety of small mammals. Funds for the acquisition of the tract were provided by Miss Katharine Ordway.

GRACE NATURE PRESERVE, Goodhue Co. 11 acres of hardwood-forested bottomland. Purchased with funds provided by W. M. Foundation.

JOYCE ESTATE, Itasca Co. 4,503 acres. See page 14.

LAKE ALEXANDER NATURAL AREA, Addition, Morrison Co. 80-acre purchase expands preserve to 240 acres. Preserve features complex glacial topography including series of kettle lakes and marshes.*

MINNESOTA PRAIRIE CHICKEN PRESERVE SYSTEM. The Minnesota Chapter has initiated a program to set aside prairie habitat for the endangered greater prairie chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*. The following areas were purchased by the Chapter in 1973 as part of this program:*

—ANNA GRONSETH PRAIRIE, Wilkin Co. Prairie habitat for marsh hawks, upland plovers, prairie chickens, marbled godwits, and other wildlife. Two tracts totaling 480 acres.

—FOXHOME PRAIRIE, Wilkin Co. 240 acres of tallgrass prairie, wet sedge pockets, open water marsh.

—KETTLEDRUMMER PRAIRIE, Wilkin Co. 160-acre prairie on highest beach ridge of glacial Lake Agassiz.

PANKRANTZ MEMORIAL PRAIRIE, Polk Co. Virgin grassland with diverse prairie plant species; 154 acres.

—PEMBINA TRAIL, Polk Co. 1,440 acres composed of old cropland, native prairie, wet sedge pockets, aspen woods, willow thickets. Contains large stable booming ground.

—TOWN HALL PRAIRIE, Wilkin Co. 40-acre native tallgrass prairie.

RIPLEY ESKER, Morrison Co. 240-acre purchase contains esker (steep-sided gravel ridge) supporting fine native prairie.*

ROCKVILLE TAMARACK BOG, Stearns Co. [illegible]-acre forested tamarack bog on north bank of Sauk River.*

SUSIE ISLAND NATURAL AREA, Cook Co. 55 acres on southern portion of island in Lake Superior. Spruce-fir forest surrounded by rocky shore.*

Missouri

ALYEA PRAIRIE, Barton Co. Outstanding example of dry upland prairies of southwest Missouri. 160 acres.

HOBBS PRAIRIE, Barton Co. 77-acre grassland with great diversity and abundance of flowering plants. Harbors prairie chickens and jack rabbits, both endangered in the state.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDENS, Addition, Franklin Co. (Gift of Mrs. Elise B. Morton and Mrs. Katharine M. Dick). Oak-hickory climax forest on bluff over Meramec River. Conveyed to Missouri Botanical Gardens for addition to Arboretum. 108 acres.

ORRELL PRAIRIE, Dade Co. Dry to mesic prairie on rolling terrain; several rock outcroppings. 80 acres.

THOMAS PRAIRIE, Jasper Co. 160-acre native grassland; tremendous diversity of flora and fauna.

THORESON/ROSEBRUGH PRAIRIE, St. Clair Co. Typical upland tallgrass prairie. Habitat for deer, fox, coyote, bobcat, prairie chicken, upland plovers and other wildlife. 320 acres.

Nevada

BIG SPRINGS DESERT PUPFISH SANCTUARY, Nye Co. 80 acres. See page 11.

New York

ACCABONAC HARBOR, Suffolk Co.:

—Addition (Gift of Mr. Samuel A. Duncan). One-acre hillside forested primarily with white, red and black oak.

—Esther Friedberg Sanctuary (Gift of Mr. Paul Friedberg). 5 acres of salt marsh fronting northern part of the harbor.

ARCHIBALD MANNING BROWN PRESERVE, Suffolk Co. (Gift of Mrs. Eleanor S. Brown). 6-acre wetland supports vegetation typical of native lowland subject to tidal influence.

ATLANTIC DOUBLE DUNES, Additions, Suffolk Co.:

—Nicholas Fry Speed Preserve. (Gift of Jessie Clark Speed). Oceanfront beach with primary and secondary dune transition. One acre.

—Heller Addition. (Gift of Mr. Ben Heller). 2½ acres of beach, dunes, seasonal freshwater pools.

CANADAWAY CREEK, Addition, Chautauqua Co. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Willard N. Nopper) Willow-lined creek, young woodland; haven for migrating birds. 4 acres.

CENTRAL PARK ADDITION, Schenectady Co. City of Schenectady, with assistance of Eastern New York Chapter, added 17.5 acres to its Central Park. Mixed woodland on rolling topography.

CHERRY PATCH POND TRACT, Essex Co. Meadow and young woodland surrounding pond. 375-acre tract is bounded on three sides by New York's Adirondack Forest Preserve. To be transferred to New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

CORDILIA HEPBURN CUSHMAN PRESERVE, Nassau Co. (Gift of Mr. R. H. Cushman). Oak-maple-beech woodland with understory of mountain laurel, ferns. 15 acres.

DUNHAM BAY WETLANDS, Additions, Warren Co. Three tracts totaling 90 acres of marsh on southern end of Lake George. Inhabited by otters, beavers, snapping turtles, blue and green herons, redwinged blackbirds. Purchased in cooperation with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

FLETCHER STEELE PROPERTY, Monroe Co. (Gift of the estate of Mr. Fletcher Steele) 52 acres of maple forest and woodland; haven for migrating birds.

FULLING MILL FARM PRESERVE, Addition, Suffolk Co. (Gift of Mrs. Augusta McL. Robinson). 5-acre lowland bordered by hedge row of shrubs and small trees. Habitat for birds, small mammals, deer.

GREAT GULLY, Cayuga Co. A 33-acre section of Great Gully, a heavily wooded ravine on the east side of Lake Cayuga.

HANS JEPPESON ISBRANDTSEN PRESERVE, Suffolk Co. 67 acres comprised of shallow waterway, small pond, dense thickets, and a wetland fronting Great South Bay. To be transferred to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

HELEN JAHN MEMORIAL NATURAL AREA, Oswego Co. 35 acres on high promontory over Lake Ontario. Well-known as observatory of hawks and other birds during spring migration.*

HIGHVISTA, Cortland Co. Old-growth hardwood forest and scenic gorge with small waterfalls and pools. 136-acre purchase.*

HOPE GODDARD ISELIN NATURE PRESERVE, Nassau Co. (Gift of Mrs. Mary Doderidge, Mrs. Anne Payne, Mr. Sidney Mitchell, Jr.). Second 10.5-acre gift in a series of four annual donations. Preserve is half mixed woodland, half open meadow.

JAMES PRESERVE, Nassau Co. (Gift of Mrs. Darwin R. James, III). 19 acres located just 12 miles east of New York City. Includes 3-acre pond and a marsh surrounded by oak-hickory woods.

LITTLE FRESH POND PRESERVE, Suffolk Co. (Gift of Charles, Daniel and Robert Horowitz). 4-acre wetland forested with swamp maple and scattered pitch pine. Habitat for variety of birds and small mammals.

MARATOOKA FARM, Suffolk Co. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Willard J. Heggen.) 12 acres include half of Maratooka Pond, and woodland and swamp surrounding the pond. Feeding ground for woodcock, snipe, various waterfowl species.

MARIAN YARROW NATURE RESERVE, Addition, Westchester Co. (Gift of Mr. Wilson P. Foss) Second-growth hardwoods, swamp, brooks. 16-acre addition enlarges preserves to 47 acres.

MEYER SANCTUARY, Westchester Co. (Gift of Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation). 231 acres with old-growth woodland, open fields, small stream.

MIANUS RIVER GORGE, Westchester Co.:
—Additions (Gifts of Mr. James Todd, Jr. and Mr. Gerald H. Wood) Two tracts, 3 and 6 acres respectively, contain oak-beech-maple woodland along scenic river.
—Additions. Two purchased tracts totaling 15.5 acres bring preserve's total to 334 acres.*

MILDRED DENTON BIRD & WILDLIFE REFUGE, Washington Co. (Gift of Mrs. Julius Denton). 360 forested acres on eastern shore of Hudson River. Includes ponds which are feeding grounds for waterfowl.
—Addition (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. George Palmer). 5-acre tract contiguous to Denton refuge.

MILDRED E. GRIERSON MEMORIAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, Westchester Co. (Gift of

Great Dismal Swamp

The Great Dismal Swamp is a unique swamp forest of great complexity. Contained within the area is a mosaic of separate ecosystems: evergreen shrub bogs, loblolly pine barrens, cypress swamps, brier thickets, and mixed swamp forests of red maple, pond pine, Atlantic white cedar, and other swamp species. Due to the Swamp's location on the coast of Virginia and North Carolina, its climate is moderated by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, resulting in a rare combination of northern and southern plant communities.

In early 1973, Union Camp Corporation donated to the Conservancy 49,097 acres within Virginia's Dismal Swamp. This tract, which includes Lake Drummond, has been conveyed to the Department of Interior for creation of a national wildlife refuge. A 179-acre tract bordering the feeder ditch to Lake Drummond was purchased in cooperation with the Izaak Walton League and will also be managed by the Department of Interior. In addition, the Conservancy purchased three tracts totaling 14,341 acres in the Swamp's North Carolina section. Two of these have been transferred to the state for administration by the Department of Natural and Economic Resources; the third is still held by the Conservancy.

Mr. Stanley O. Grierson). 18 acres include 5 acres of marsh and pond; remainder is oak-beech-maple woodland. Adjacent to Marian Yarrow Preserve.

MONTY BAY WETLANDS, Boire Tract, Clinton Co. Reverting farmland and swamp used by migrating waterfowl as nesting and feeding area. 207 acres near west side of Lake Champlain. For transfer to New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

MORGENTHAU PRESERVE, Addition, Westchester Co. 12 acres include frontage on Blue Heron Lake, an island off the lakeshore, open fields and woodland. Expands preserve to 32 acres.

ORCHID BOG, Herkimer Co. (Gift of Mr. Walter F. Scheeren, Dr. David Tomlinson) Sphagnum peat bog supporting a variety of orchid species. 15 acres.

OTTER CREEK, Westchester Co. 27 acres on tidal creek which flows through tidal marsh into Long Island Sound. Habitat for ducks, geese, shorebirds, small mammals.

SAGG SWAMP NATURE RESERVE, Addition, Suffolk Co. (Gift of Mr. John C. White) 5 acres of marshy woodland within largest surviving freshwater marsh on Long Island's south fork.

ST. JOHN'S POND SANCTUARY, Addition, Nassau Co. 6-acre addition, purchased by Long Island Chapter, provides buffer for existing preserve and increases control of watershed.

SCALLOP POND: PETER SALM PRESERVE, Suffolk Co. (Gift of Mr. Peter Salm) 20 acres of classic New England salt marsh; feeding and nesting ground for clapper rail, osprey, great blue heron, and other birds.

SHERWOOD REVERTER, Orange Co. 9.5 acres of open fields and mixed woodland donated by Helen L. Sherwood to Cornwall Neighborhood Museum with a reverter to the Conservancy.

VALCOUR ISLAND, Seton Tract, Clinton Co. 130 acres on southern end of Valcour Island in Lake Champlain. Dense woodlands and swamp provide habitat for waterfowl, migrating bald eagles and other wildlife. Transferred to New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

WEST BRANCH NATURE PRESERVE, Delaware Co. (Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jones). 450 acres of mixed hardwood forest including a superb old-growth stand of white pine, hemlock, beech, red maple, white and red oak.

WEST HILL, Ontario Co. (Gift of Mr. Anton V. Long) Pine and hardwood forest on sloping land in central portion of Finger Lakes Region. 313 acres.

WHITE LAKE, Onondaga Co. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Digney, Mr. and Mrs. John Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. John Honey, and Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell) 10-acre woodland with rare species of ferns and orchids.

WILLIAM J. KNAPP ESTATE, Washington Co. (Gift of Mrs. Sarah Louise Knapp Sprole) ⅛ interest in 254 acres on east shore of Lake George. Traversed by Shelving Rock Brook which provides spawning ground for rainbow trout in Lake George. To be transferred to New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

North Carolina

CHOWAN SWAMP, Gates Co. 6,059-acre swamp at intersection of Chowan River, Bennetts Creek and Sarem Creek. Contains stands of virgin bald cypress, tupelo, white cedar, hardwoods. Excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife. For transfer to the State of North Carolina.

ENO RIVER, Additions, Orange and Durham Cos. 3 purchases totaling 46 acres along scenic Eno River. Part of program to assist in obtaining lands along 20-mile stretch of the Eno for Eno River State Park.

—Addition (Gift of Mr. Charles W. Dubs) 17 acres with bluff overlooking the Eno.

—Addition (Gift of Mrs. T. S. Coile) Steep promontories and floodplain fronting the river. 21.5 acres.

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP, Additions, Camden Co. 14,341 acres. See page 17.

MERCHANT MILL POND, Gates Co. (Gift of Georgia-Pacific Corporation) Narrow, virgin bald cypress swamp on either side of Bennett Creek, larger old-growth cypress-gum swamp and quiet millpond with scattered gum and cypress trees and many small islands. A mature hardwood forest surrounds the pond and swamp. 925 acres. To be transferred to North Carolina Department of Parks.

Ohio

BUZZARDROOST ROCK: CHRISTIAN & EMMA GOETZ PRESERVE, Addition, Adams Co. 71 acres of mixed woodland with several dolomite promontories. Connects Buzzardroost and Red Rock preserves with The Wilderness. Conveyed to Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

CHAGRIN RIVER FOREST PRESERVE, Addition, Cuyahoga Co. Beech-maple-hemlock forested ravines along Chagrin River. Expands preserve to 148 acres. Transferred to Village of Hunting Valley.

IRWIN PRAIRIE, Lucas Co. 102-acre wet prairie; habitat of the uncommon spotted turtle. Transferred to Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

LITTLE MIAMI OVERLOOK, Warren Co. 76 acres fronting scenic Little Miami River. Transferred to the state as part of its scenic rivers program.

TEFFT MEMORIAL NATURE SANCTUARY, Additions, Washington Co. Mixed woodland, scenic waterfall, hemlock-covered ravines. 2 additions total 156 acres and provide valuable buffer for original preserve.

VONTZ & EMBSHOFF TRACTS, Hamilton Co. (Gift of Mr. Albert Vontz and Mr. and Mrs. George Embshoff) Wooded ravines, open fields. To be transferred to Hamilton County Park District for use as a park. 97 acres.

WICKWIRE-SHADE NATURE PRESERVE, Seneca Co. 40-acre woodland given by Leona Ilene Hand to Heidelberg College with a reverter to the Conservancy.

Oregon

SANDY RIVER GORGE NATURAL AREA, Addition, Clackamas Co. (Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Milton Hyman) 36 acres of riverfront and flatlands along shallow part of gorge. Partly wooded with old-growth Douglas fir, hemlock, cedar.

Pennsylvania

KING'S GAP, Cumberland Co. 1,418 heavily wooded acres overlooking Cumberland Valley; habitat for deer, wild turkey, and a variety of small mammals and native birds. Transferred to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

PINE CREEK, Cooney Property, Lycoming Co. 392 acres of woodland fronting Pine Creek. Transferred to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Natural Resources.

SALT SPRINGS, Susquehanna Co. 408 acres contain four waterfalls, grove of ancient hemlocks (300-700 years old), and an unusual salt spring. Purchased in cooperation with Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for creation of a state park.

South Dakota

SIOUX PRAIRIE, Addition, Moody Co. 40 acres of slightly rolling tallgrass prairie; several buffalo rubbing rocks and wallows. Expands unit in Ordway Prairie System to 120 acres.

Texas

MARYSEE PRAIRIE, Liberty Co. (Gift of Texas Conservation Foundation) 3-acre tallgrass prairie within Big Thicket.

Vermont

ETHAN ALLEN FARMS, Chittenden Co. 158 acres of floodplain on Winooski River. To be conveyed to the Winooski Valley Regional Park District.

McKNIGHT PROPERTY, Windsor Co. (Gift of Mrs. June H. McKnight) Open fields and red pine woodland. 57-acre tract will be conveyed to Vermont Institute of Natural Science.

SHELBURNE POND PRESERVE, Chittenden Co. 90 acres fronting unspoiled pond. Pond is bordered with limestone ledges and mature hardwood forest, includes extensive marshes. Purchased by Vermont Chapter with funds provided by Mr. H. Laurence Achilles.

SUGAR HOLLOW NATURAL AREA, Rutland Co. 31 acres with young woodland, open fields, several springs.*

Virginia Coast Reserve

During the year the Conservancy continued to add to its extensive holdings in the Virginia barrier islands. These islands of marsh and dune serve as storm buffers to the mainland and are ecologically and economically critical as breeding grounds for ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, and fin and shell fish. In 1973, with funds provided by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Conservancy purchased 10,565 acres consisting of a portion of Hog Island (now almost completely under Conservancy ownership) and three entire islands—Rogue, Cobb and Parramore. Parramore Island, the largest of the three, has long been recognized as the "crown jewel" of the Virginia barrier islands. The total area now protected by The Nature Conservancy comprises some 31,000 acres.

McCloud River Preserve

A 2,330-acre gift of land from the McCloud River Club encompasses nearly six miles of the McCloud River watershed in northern California. The watershed, which for decades has been maintained in a pristine condition by the McCloud River Club, contains a mixed conifer forest dominated by Douglas fir. The river itself is widely recognized as one of the finest trout streams in California, and several rare endemic trout species are found in the McCloud drainage system. Public access to the area will be limited in order to protect the preserve's wilderness qualities.

Virginia

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP, Nansemond Co. and City of Chesapeake. 49,276 acres. See page 17.

NEW POINT COMFORT ISLAND, Mathews Co. (Gift of the Hollerith family) 50-acre island contains freshwater pond surrounded by mixed marsh vegetation. Nesting site for osprey, least terns.

VIRGINIA COAST RESERVE, Additions, Northampton and Accomack Cos. 10,565 acres. See page 20.

Washington

BURNT BRIDGE CREEK CANYON, Clark Co. (Gift of Donald J. and Elizabeth R. Stewart) 12½ acres include freshwater marsh and small canyon formed by Burnt Bridge Creek. Will be transferred to City of Vancouver for inclusion in Greenbelt Park.

LAKE LOUISE ECOLOGICAL AREA, Whatcom Co. 4 acres acquired on behalf of State for addition to 80-acre state-owned preserve.

RAWSON GRANT, Addition, Kitsap Co. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Pennell) 5 acres of marsh and mixed woodland; habitat for pileated woodpeckers, marten, otter, shellfish, numerous shorebirds and waterfowl. Will be transferred to Olympia College.

WALDRON ISLAND, Addition, San Juan Co. 84-acre purchase enlarges preserve of white sand beaches, marshes, lakes and evergreen and hardwood forests to 216 acres. In San Juan Islands of Puget Sound.*

Wisconsin

FALK TRACT, Waukesha Co. (Gift of Mr. Harold Falk) Upland forest bog, cattail marshes, open fields. 58 acres.

HOWARD T. GREENE PRESERVE, Waukesha Co. 11-acre woodland with coldwater stream donated to Carroll College with a reverter to the Conservancy.

JACKSON HARBOR RIDGES, Door Co. Wisconsin Chaper assisted Town of Washington Island in purchasing 39-acre tract. Includes beach, dune ridges, upland woods.

NELSON PROPERTY, Addition, Waukesha Co. (Gift of Mary H. Nelson) Oak woods with marshes, open fields. 40-acre addition and original 26-acre preserve will be transferred to University of Wisconsin.

TOFT POINT NATURAL AREA, Addition, Door Co. Wet, swampy area with tamarack and white cedar. 40-acre purchase expands preserve to 275 acres. To be conveyed to University of Wisconsin at Green Bay.*

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ARBORETUM, Addition, Dane Co. ¾-acre inholding provides buffer to adjacent wetlands. Conveyed to Friends of the Arboretum.

U.S.V.I.

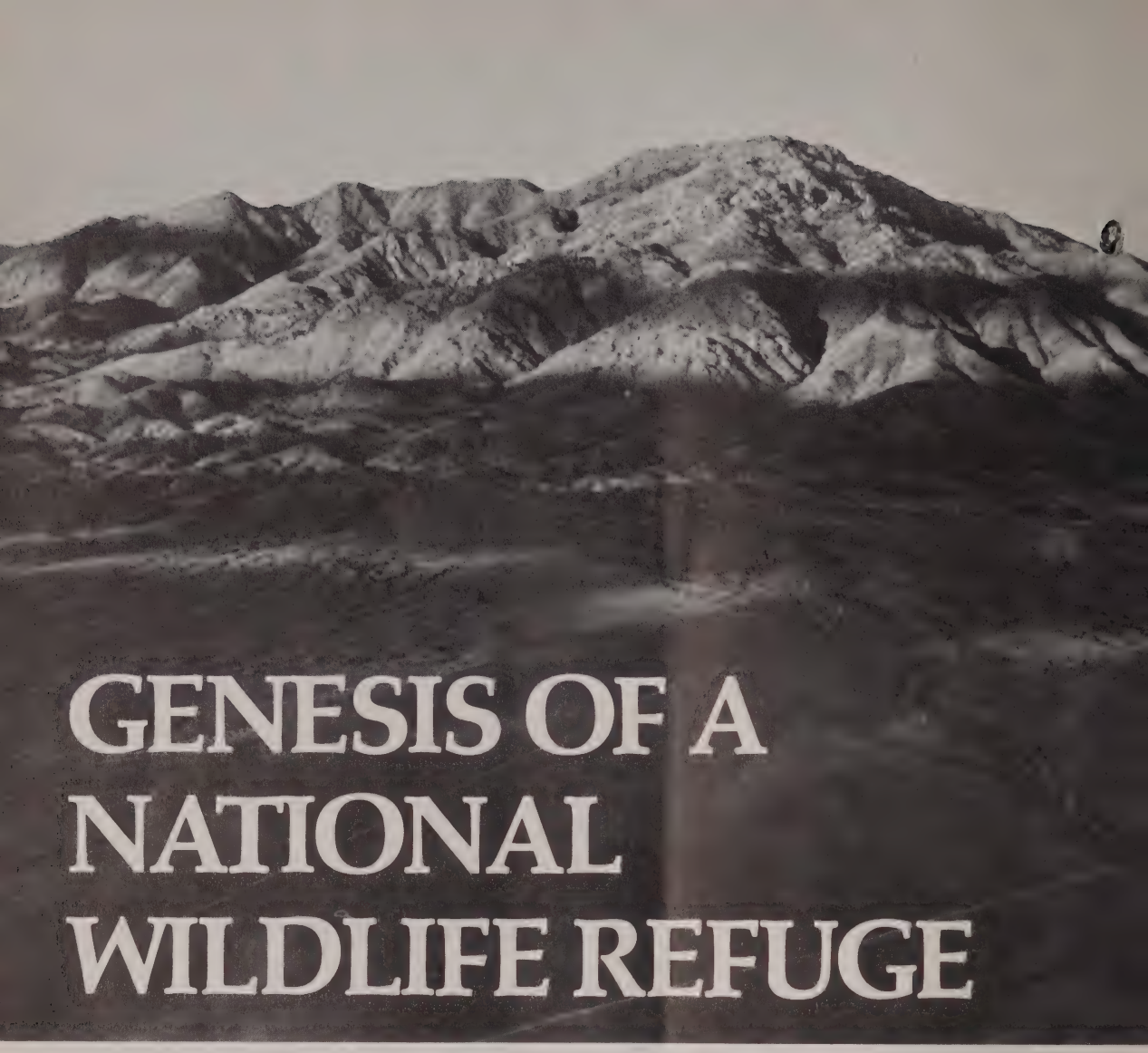
BATTERY GUT #3, St. John. (Gift of Messrs. Shailer Bass, Carl Gerstacker, H. D. Doan and C. Benson Branch) Deep, rocky valley with mature trees, philodendron, wild anthurium and wild orchids. 11½ acres.

Nova Scotia, Canada

WM. L. MacCORMACK MEMORIAL PARK, Victoria Co. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Russell) 9 acres on Cape Breton Island contain beech, spruce, alder forest. Subsequently transferred to The Nature Conservancy of Canada.

OUTERBALD ISLAND, Yarmouth Co. (Gift of Mr. Russell M. Arundel) Sparsely vegetated 4-acre island. Refuge for breeding colonies of sea birds, migrating birds.

***Fund raising in progress.**



GENESIS OF A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

by William C. Ashe

Sevilleta, the newest national wildlife refuge, came into being on December 28, 1973—climaxing a month of intensive work by the Campbell Family Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On that day, in Washington, D.C., the property was sold by the Foundation to the Conservancy and donated by the Conservancy to the United States. Sevilleta holds promise of becoming one of the outstanding natural areas in the entire refuge system.

Located in Socorro County, New Mexico, 65 miles south of Albuquerque, the new, large refuge, comprising 220,000 acres, makes up most of the Spanish Land Grant called Sevilleta de la Joya. The Rio Grande and Interstate Highway 25, paralleling the river between the communities of Belen (north) and Socorro (south), roughly bisect the Grant. The Refuge includes most of the original Sevilleta Grant except for "bosque" lands (forest or woods) on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Sevilleta is arid country with a hot desert climate. Rainfall averages eight inches yearly, much of it coming during intense summer storm showers. Flash floods are common. Fascinating in its physiographic diversity, at least to this native easterner, Sevilleta is a vast land of mountains, alluvial fans, piedmont bajadas, terraces, canyons, washes, arroyos, hills and ridges, sand dunes, and bosque lands.

Mr. Ashe is Regional Supervisor of the Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dominating the landscape are the Ladron and Los Pinos Mountains. Clearly seen from my office window on all but the cloudiest days, though 50 miles from downtown Albuquerque, the steep, extremely rugged Ladron rises over 9,000 feet high in the northwest corner of the Grant. Some interesting history goes with it. Ladron, meaning "thief", reflects the mountains' 19th century use as a haven for marauding bandits and Navajo and Apache horse thieves. Legend also has it that a treasure in gold is hidden somewhere in the mountains. The Los Pinos (the pines) Mountains, some 35 to 40 miles east of the Ladrons, rise over 7,000 feet and form the eastern boundary of the Grant.

The New Mexico Environmental Institute reports that the first non-Indian visitors to Sevilleta lands were Franciscan priests from Chihuahua, Mexico, in the late 16th century. Later, the Spaniards established a military post at "Nueve Sevilla" which became Sevilleta. With the exception of a short period during the Pueblo Uprising between 1680 and 1692, Spanish domination continued for over 200 years.

In June 1819, in the waning years of Spanish rule, the Governor of the Province of New Mexico conveyed the Sevilleta de la Joya Grant to the residents of the Community of Sevilleta. Mexico, already at war with Spain, became an independent republic in 1821 and in the process gained control over Grant lands.

Mexican rule lasted until the end of Mexico's war with the United States. Under terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, concluded on February 2, 1848, Sevilleta was included in the lands ceded to the United States. The Treaty also recognized land grants considered valid by the Republic of Mexico. Eventually, in 1907, President Roosevelt issued a patent on the Sevilleta lands to the residents of the community.

Taxes were not paid on the Sevilleta Grant after New Mexico became a state in 1912. In the mid-1920's Socorro County sued for non-payment of real estate taxes. The decision went against the defendants and the property was sold in 1928 by public sale. Purchaser: County of Socorro. The County in turn sold the property in 1936 to Thomas Campbell. General Campbell, who was reputedly the world's largest wheat grower, with extensive holdings in New Mexico, Montana and elsewhere, did not acquire the entire Sevilleta Grant. Descendants of the original owners retained title to lands along the Rio Grande which had traditionally been used for farming.

Naturally, the original owners harbored resentments over the loss of their lands to Socorro County. They had neither the financial nor legal means to retain title to the lands. Also, the community ownership seemed to work against any unified action. General Campbell, however, concerned over local problems and reacting with generosity and goodwill, did much to assuage the resentment. He is fondly remembered by most of the local residents.

Nonetheless, some hard feelings still remain. The Fish and Wildlife Service will not only have to prove that it is a competent land manager, but will have to take whatever actions within its means to be a "good neighbor" to the local residents.

Since the first Spanish settlement of Sevilleta, much of the Grant has been used for cattle and sheep grazing. Overgrazing, the disease of most rangelands in the desert grassland region of central and southern New Mexico, did not miss Sevilleta. Perhaps the greatest damage has occurred in the past 30 years. Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Campbell Knapp, General Campbell's daughter and now President of the non-profit Campbell Family Foundation, remembers "when the native grasses were knee-high over most of the ranch". No more. Overgrazing, coupled with periods of extended drought, caused the native grasses to give way to less palatable and less desirable weeds and shrubs. Where grama grass and brome grass grew in relative abundance, one now finds choya cactus, mesquite, broom weed, prickly pear, loco-weed or just plain bare soil. Soil erosion has accelerated. Wildlife has declined. John Lucero, with Channel 7 in Albuquerque, says that, as a boy, the largest mule deer he ever saw was shot near the Ladrons on Sevilleta. Not today. Clearly, these lands need a rest from any intensive uses. They will need help to recover their former productiveness.

Prior to General Campbell's death in 1966, title to the Sevilleta property was passed in 1964 to the Campbell Family Foundation. Recognizing the need to protect the land from further intensive uses, the Foundation stopped all grazing.

Eliminating grazing, the most profitable use of the land, solved one problem, but created another: What to do with the property? It could be sold as were the 100,000 acres in the adjacent Belen Grant (north) to the Horizon Corporation, or a similar development organization. With a market value estimated variously at $6-$12 million for the entire ownership package, direct sale might have been an easy road to take.

The Foundation chose another route. It began to search for an agency or organization that, under certain rigidly imposed conditions, could assume a management program designed to protect and revitalize the land and its resources in perpetuity. The Foundation also wanted the area open to research by various universities and organizations such as the Smithsonian Institution.

In its quest the Foundation went to a number of groups, the Conservancy included. The Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as other state and federal agencies, were contacted. For some, like the Fish and Wildlife Service, the burdens and costs of managing such a mammoth and complex area were just too great. In other instances the management objectives did not measure up to the Foundation's desires.

In early 1973 the Foundation once again approached the Department of Interior and the Fish and Wildlife Service about national wildlife refuge possibilities. Negotiations continued. Finally, on October 24, 1973, Mrs. Knapp made an offer. Essentially, the Foundation would convey the property for $500,000 in a number of parcels over approximately five years. The land could be used only for refuge purposes, including research. Importantly, for tax purposes, the first purchase had to be concluded by December 31, 1973.

But the Bureau was not in a position to accept: Still no purchase money, too many loose ends, not enough time. The decision, however, had been reached that Sevilleta should, if possible, be added to the national wildlife refuge system. Enter The Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy has had a history of interest in preserving Sevilleta. Now, faced with a real opportunity, the Conservancy was not going to miss a chance.

A golden eagle awaits his prey.

Conservancy President, Pat Noonan, began negotiating with both the Campbell Family Foundation and the Bureau. By November 20, 1973, an agreement had been reached with the Foundation that embodied most of the conditions in Mrs. Knapp's earlier offer. There were some essential changes. The Conservancy would put up the $500,000; and all 220,000 acres of Sevilleta would be sold at once to the Conservancy which would then simultaneously convey the entire property to the United States for perpetual use as a wildlife refuge.

If you want to buy a house and lot near one of our metropolitan areas, where the basic survey and title work has been done, and with financing readily available, the transfer might be made in 30 days—if everyone works hard and no hitches develop. On the other hand, conveying 220,000 acres to the United States, with all the attendant legal requirements, policies and procedural needs, is something else again. Virtually from scratch, acceptable surveys and descriptions had to be worked up, title insurance binders ordered and received, conveyance instruments drafted, an environmental assessment report prepared, and the proposal routed through New Mexico's clearinghouse. Moreover, these matters and others had to be reviewed and approved at appropriate levels of government and, in many instances, by all parties. The Conservancy, somehow, some way, had to find $500,000.

Details of the donation to the United States had to be worked out in such a way that would not only satisfy the intent and desires of the grantor, but would provide the flexibility necessary for long range management and administration. Determined, meaningful talks were carried on through December. Throughout it all, the Conservancy staff members on the east and west coasts worked as a team to solve problems and to keep all parties working toward the tranfer. Talks went on during the day and into the evenings. Negotiations by phone continued even on Christmas Day.

The missing ingredient came when the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, with decisiveness and generosity, approved a gift of $500,000 to the Conservancy to purchase the property for the United States. Finally, the deeds were signed and in the twilight of a mid-winter evening, Sevilleta de la Joya became the nation's newest refuge.

As with any new refuge, particularly one of such size, boundary lines will have to be resurveyed on the ground, corners monumented and the new refuge posted; several title problems will have to be adjudicated; fencing will be needed over much of the 150-mile boundary. Just to do this work will take two to three years and cost an estimated

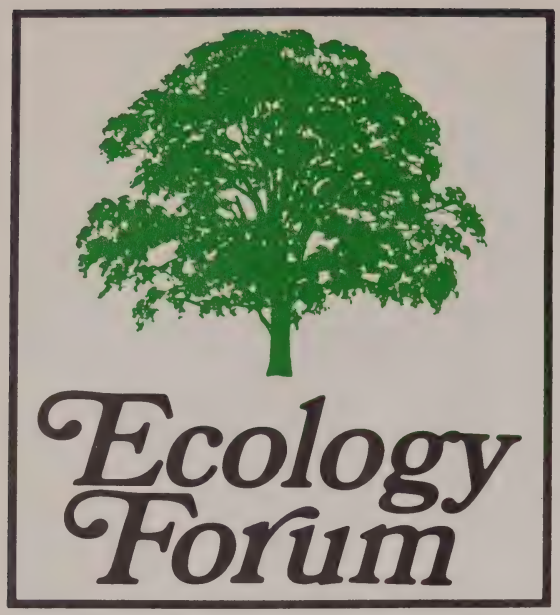
$300,000 or more. However, land control, unquestioned and complete, is vital to managing a refuge.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's plans are to study and inventory the entire area before any long range plans will be formulated. Some needs are obvious, and some directions are dictated by the terms of the donation.

The land needs rest to recover its former productivity. And, as vegetational recovery in this arid country requires decades, the main aim of management for some time must be the protection of the total environment. The grazing ban will continue. In fact, there can be no grazing, or similar commercial use, without common agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservancy. The deeds of conveyance declare no oil, gas or mineral exploration or development—by anyone. Hunting may be authorized, but only to the extent compatible with the purposes for which the area was established and consistent with sound management principles. Public uses will be limited in scope and to wildlife-oriented activities. The Fish and Wildlife Service will encourage research by qualified institutions and agencies to monitor and record natural ecological processes and successions, and for answers to management questions.

Sevilleta supports today limited populations of deer, quail, dove, Arizona blacktailed prairie dogs, rabbits, coyotes, bobcats, burrowing and great horned owls, golden eagles and various hawks and passerine birds. Numbers will increase under refuge management and protection. Also, under actions already being taken along the Rio Grande, use by migratory birds is likely to increase. Research and other studies may indicate the desirability of introducing, or re-introducing, other native wildlife. Sevilleta should be an interesting study in the effects of habitat recovery.

More than anything else, to my thinking, the genesis of the Sevilleta Refuge is an example of what can be achieved when the private and public sectors work together. The common objectives and cooperation of The Campbell Family Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Fish and Wildlife Service comprised a successful formula for the establishment of Sevilleta Refuge.



No. 11
by W. Brian Bedford

A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE VIRGINIA BARRIER ISLANDS

The goals and activity of The Nature Conservancy are nowhere better exemplified than in the acquisition of the Virginia barrier islands. The timely purchase of the islands was crucial in insuring that this vital portion of the coastal ecosystem continue to function in its natural state. The coastal preserve now consists of Smith, Myrtle, Ship Shoal, Godwin, Mink, Cobb, Rogue, Hog and Parramore Islands, as well as portions of Cedar Island. Within the protected system, totaling some 31,000 acres, is found the complete spectrum of natural community types characteristic of the region. Habitats represented include salt marshes, tidal mud flats, surf zone, freshwater marshes and ponds, dune communities, maritime shrub forests, and pine forests. The islands themselves range from narrow strands of sand to heavily forested islands.

However, the Conservancy cannot step back and rest now that most of the land has been acquired. As has been so often demonstrated in the past, acquisition alone does not protect a natural area, and even islands are not immune to all the exogenous impinging influences of our man-dominated landscape (and seascape). A very serious part of the Conservancy's job is to insure the greatest possible degree of perpetuity for the land, whether it remains under Conservancy ownership or is transferred to another management agency. To carry out this stewardship in the most responsible manner, the Conservancy has committed itself to conducting an ecosystem and resource management study for the Virginia barrier islands. Because the parts of this dynamic natural system are so interrelated and interdependent, the study will, in many facets, treat the entire Virginia barrier island chain and marsh system as a unit, although there will be a concentration on those elements owned by or of future interest to the Conservancy.

The 18-month study will have the full participation and direction of a national office ecologist and is to be funded by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust. The study is structured as a planning phase for a continued Virginia barrier island management program that will have the protection of the natural system as its dominating goal. To develop such a program, factors that apply to the management of the islands must be identified. These factors include the islands' biological and geological components, pressures to which the system will be subjected, the fragility of various parts of the system, and the islands' most outstanding features. Within and as is consistent with the primary goal, scientific and educational uses will be planned and programs developed that will facilitate such uses.

A secondary but highly important objective will be the establishment of environmental baselines within the Virginia barrier islands. To make wise decisions in environmental management, an understanding is needed of ecosystem functioning and reaction to change. To obtain this information the Conservancy must have continuing knowledge of the relatively undisturbed ecosystem as a baseline against which to measure the effects of modification. The desired baseline is an accurate description of the status and workings of an ecosystem in the absence of human disruptions.

A good theoretical framework for the establishment of such a management plan has been laid through many years of research by universities and agencies on aspects of this island system. At the present time, researchers are engaged in such applicable studies as the effects of dredging on natural communities, erosion studies, legal studies, wetlands legislation and ownership, and a great variety of natural history and other ecosystem-related studies. What is now required is an on-the-ground effort by the Conservancy to integrate, through a systems approach, all of these pieces of information into an effective strategy that will guarantee the protection of natural systems while producing other benefits through a carefully designed use program.

(continued on page 29)

Oak Leaf Awards 1973-1974

The Nature Conservancy acknowledges the outstanding efforts of its members through the presentation of the Oak Leaf Award. This award, symbolized by a green and gold lapel pin, is given in recognition of especially dedicated service and support toward achieving the Conservancy's objectives. Recipients for 1973 and 1974 are:

MR. H. LAURENCE ACHILLES receives his award in grateful recognition of his long time and staunch advocacy of Conservancy land acquisition efforts. He has been involved in a number of conservation activities including the safeguarding of Kipahulu Valley and a continuing concern for natural area preservation in Vermont.

MR. DAVID BLACK is acknowledged for his work as former acting chairman of the Conservancy's San Juan Island Committee and for his effective efforts in fund raising for the Waldron Island Project. Also noted is his membership in the Washington Environmental Council and his concern for conservation activities throughout the state.

MRS. LUCILE DURRELL is a former trustee of the Ohio Chapter. Mrs. Durrell, a trained geologist, has been active in conservation throughout Ohio. Her service award comes in specific recognition of her work toward the creation of the southern Ohio system of Conservancy preserves. In addition to her membership in the preserve management group for the Adams County areas, she has authored comprehensive guides to two of the sanctuaries within the system.

MRS. EMILY EARLEY is a dynamic, energetic member of the Conservancy's Wisconsin Chapter. Mrs. Earley has served for a number of years as a chapter officer and is also recognized for her involvement in other conservation activities throughout the State of Wisconsin.

MRS. HORTON ELTING receives her award in recognition of her involvement and active participation in the success of the Illinois Chapter. In addition to her activities as a chapter officer and trustee, she was to a great extent responsible for Conservancy acquisition of Cedar Glen Eagle Roost, the nation's largest preserved winter roosting site for the bald eagle.

MRS. JOHN G. ERHARDT is recognized as the original preserve donor and a moving force in the exemplary activity of the Daniel R. David Preserve Project Committee. She has been largely responsible for establishing the preserve as one of the Long Island Chapter's "finest". The preserve comprises a protected and last known nesting area of the hermit thrush on Long Island.

MRS. JOHN M. FRANKEL, as a member of the Northern California Chapter, has been largely responsible for the Conservancy's successful work at Inglenook Fen. She has also evidenced a long term effectiveness in various Conservancy projects and is recognized for her many efforts on behalf of land conservation.

DR. CARL GEORGE, as a leader and scientist, worked tirelessly to further the interests of TNC and to build the Eastern New York Chapter into a strong and active unit. In addition to his work as a member and chapter chairman, Dr. George has done much to raise the awareness of the public in eastern New York to the need to preserve and protect the natural lands. For his past efforts and future promise, Dr. George receives the Conservancy Oak Leaf.

MR. HERBERT S. HILLER, as a staff member for nine years, as well as a Life Member, has been responsible for the direct preservation of many important areas throughout the United States. Now, having retired from the Conservancy staff, Mr. Hiller serves the cause of land conservation as a volunteer. His award is made in awareness of his significant contributions to the preservation of natural lands.

MISS L. GEORGIA HUNDLEY has been a long time and active worker involved in many Connecticut Chapter projects. She receives her Oak Leaf in recognition of her service as a chapter officer and for her work in the broader cause of land preservation throughout the Nutmeg State.

MR. WAYNE G. JACKSON, an attorney and volunteer staff member in the National Office, is awarded the Conservancy Oak Leaf in recognition of his many hours and successful work on a variety of special projects which have resulted in the preservation of natural lands.

MR. HUEY D. JOHNSON, former Director of the Conservancy's Western Regional Office and once acting Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy, is recognized for his many and active preservation efforts. A few projects completed under his direction deserving special mention include the Martha Gerbode Preserve (Marin Headlands), Kipahulu Valley (Maui, Hawaii), Aravaipa Canyon (Arizona), and Beartooth Ranch (Montana). Through Mr. Johnson's efforts, literally thousands of acres, large and small projects, east and west, have been completed and the lands preserved.

MR. LYLE M. NELSON is an immediate past Vice Chairman of the Conservancy's Board and Chairman of the Department of Communication at Stanford University. Mr. Nelson is recognized for his leadership and dedication to the Conservancy over a number of years. His wise counsel and sound advice have resulted in significant achievements for and support of the Conservancy nationally and the accomplishment of many land conservation objectives.

DR. ROBERT RIENOW and **MRS. LEONA RIENOW** receive the Oak Leaf in special recognition of their advice to and leadership of the Conservancy over the past 20 years. The Eastern New York Chapter, the Conservancy's oldest, was co-founded by the Rienows. Dr. Rienow has served three terms on the Conservancy's Board of Governors and has served as a project worker, chapter officer and trustee. In addition to working for the Conservancy and its goals, the Rienows are also recognized as having devoted much of their lives to effectively demonstrating the needs and causes for a better environment and a wise land ethic.

MR. FRED RINGEL is a Jacksonville attorney and has worked diligently and effectively toward the continued safeguarding of the Conservancy's Hon. Theodore Roosevelt Preserve on the St. John's River. Mr. Ringel is also recognized for his active involvement in additional major projects within the southeastern region.

MR. THOMAS C. SAVAGE is a trustee and officer of the Minnesota Chapter. He is awarded the Conservancy Oak Leaf in recognition of his activities as a working leader in many of the most important Conservancy projects in Minnesota. Additionally, he has been vigorous in fund raising for the chapter and projects and currently chairs the chapter's acquisition committee. He also serves as a valuable link with other environmental groups throughout the region.

MR. PAUL STOUTENBURGH, a trustee and officer of the Long Island Chapter, has been an active member of the organization for almost a decade. His efforts have resulted in the preservation of a number of significant areas with special emphasis on the island's North Fork. For his proven success, he is awarded the Conservancy Oak Leaf.

MRS. GEORGE M. TODD has worked directly for the cause of land conservation through her activities with the Conservancy's Ohio Chapter and the Maine Chapter. Mrs. Todd is also recognized with the Conservancy Oak Leaf for her leadership and dedicated efforts evidenced through her involvement with key environmental action organizations in Ohio and Maine.

DR. COOLEY RECEIVES SPECIAL AWARD

At this year's annual meeting, a unique award was given to honor Dr. George R. Cooley, whose efforts for the Conservancy merit and demand special recognition. Symbolized, as are Oak Leaf Awards, by a green and gold lapel pin, the Chairman's Special Award was presented to Dr. Cooley in recognition of his spirit, wit, wisdom, effectiveness and dedication.

Dr. Cooley has for two decades been an energetic worker for the cause of land conservation. He has provided leadership at the chapter and committee levels and has served the Conservancy as a member of its national Board of Governors.

(ECOLOGY FORUM, continued)

The information and experience gained in this management study will not only have great intrinsic value, but hopefully will be highly transferable to other natural area programs. For example, the federal government, through its National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is launching a Marine and Estuarine Sanctuaries Program. As sanctuaries are designated, there will be a need for prototypes with regard to management and use as well as acquisition.

Although the Conservancy must not lose sight of its important role in acquisition, it is important that the organization, as a leader in what has now become a national natural areas movement, continue to expand its knowledge and capabilities. The management study for the Virginia barrier islands represents an exciting new area of involvement for the Conservancy and demonstrates a commitment to the broad field of natural area protection.

CEDAR BOG SAFEGUARDED

For years Cedar Bog, an alkaline bog in Champaign County, Ohio, has been threatened by the proposed relocation of U.S. Highway 68 along its eastern border. But a recent decision by the Ohio Department of Transportation to abandon relocation plans has saved the fragile bog from possible damage to its underground water supply. The decision was a result of a long and determined fight by many conservation organizations, including the Clark County Audubon Society, the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and Friends of Cedar Bog.

Cedar Bog was acquired in 1968 by the Conservancy and transferred in 1971 to the Ohio Historical Society. The bog, a National Natural Landmark, is considered to be the southernmost alkaline bog in the U.S. and is characterized by a unique collection of plants, animals, and environmental conditions found nowhere else in Ohio.

MAINE STUDENTS BEGIN STUDY OF CONSERVANCY PRESERVES

Two students from the innovative College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, have begun an ecological evaluation of two Conservancy preserves, Round and Wreck Islands, on the coast of Maine. The ten-week study, funded jointly by the College, the Massachusetts Audubon Environmental Intern Program, and the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will provide ecological information which will be used as the basis for management plans for the two islands.

The students will work under the supervision of College faculty and Conservancy staff, and will receive credit toward their bachelor degrees in human ecology. Mrs. Emily Muir, who donated Wreck Island to the Conservancy, will provide the students with convenient lodging and other assistance.

This project is the first in what the Conservancy hopes will be a series of cooperative programs designed to stimulate increased utilization of Conservancy preserves by colleges and universities.

CONSERVANCY INITIATES AMERICAN PRAIRIE INVENTORY

Most of America's once-extensive prairie has been plowed into cornfields, covered by subdivisions, improved by the introduction of pasture grasses or selected strains of native grasses, or simply overgrazed. So while much of the United States west of the Mississippi is still covered with grass, there are few tracts of original prairie that have not been altered by man in the last 120 years. More and more people are becoming concerned that representative samples of the original prairie be preserved as a viable reminder of a landscape that profoundly shaped human history on this continent, and as a reservoir of genetic information of great potential usefulness to man.

In response to this concern, the Nature Conservancy has initiated an inventory of American prairie remnants under the direction of plant ecologist Dr. Richard H. Wagner. The purpose of The American Prairie Inventory is to locate and map examples of all grassland types currently protected, and then to determine which prairie types are most in need of preservation. Preservation need not mean enclosure behind a link fence and retirement from productive use. It can well mean a management program of burning, light grazing or mowing, with the goal of maintaining the great diversity of species which distinguished the original prairie. The American Prairie Inventory's ultimate goal will be the establishment of a loose system of federal, state, local, and privately held tracts which retain as much as possible of the American prairie's original diversity.

The success of the inventory will in part depend on the interest of local and regional experts and their willingness to share their specialized knowledge of prairies in their areas. Base-line information about specific prairie tracts should include location, major grassland types represented, condition, threat, current management, present ownership and acreage. Data should be supplied to The American Prairie Inventory, 37 States Street, Apartment 33, San Francisco, California 94114. Information of this type, in addition to that supplied by various federal, state, and local sources, will provide a fairly comprehensive picture of existing native grasslands, and will add an essential national perspective to the work of all conservationists interested in preserving the historical, scientific and aesthetic value of the prairie habitat.

BRANCH SPROUTS A CHAPTER

The first new Conservancy chapter to be chartered in a number of years, the South Fork-Shelter Island Chapter grew directly out of the East End Branch of the Conservancy's Long Island Chapter.

The group, now with 400 members, was first formed in 1965. With a 21-member Board of Trustees chaired by Frederick E. Lake who was the Branch's first chairman, the organization has acquired 35 preserves since its beginning eight years ago. Four of the preserves are what SF-SI officials call "teaching preserves" with marked trails and offerring special guided walks by local volunteers "informed in the natural sciences".

Mrs. Grace McGraw Smith, a member of the group's original Board of Trustees and a former chapter officer, became the Branch's first full-time staff member when she was hired last summer as Executive Director. She will continue as Executive Director at the group's offices in Amagansett.

The addition of the SF-SI brings to five the number of Conservancy chapters now operating in New York.

ANNUAL REPORT 1973

The Nature Conservancy's Annual Report covering the fiscal period from January 1 to December 31, 1973, is now available on request. Write to Mrs. Sue Dodge, Director of Publications, at the National Office.

Without land we cannot live.

We must preserve vital segments of remaining natural areas if land is to continue to support man and the diversity of life which still exists. We cannot afford to do anything else.

This spring please give generously to the General Fund.

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